The next issue of CHALLENGE will appear in three weeks, after which we will resume our regular biweekly schedule.

PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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INDIA

RISE OF FASCIST ATTACKS

BHOPAL, INDIA—Police gunned down eight unarmed prisoners, accused as members of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), who fled from jail in Bhopal.

This brutal execution of Muslim workers is a part of increasing racism and fascism worldwide. As fascism rises, the bosses deceive workers into scapegoating our Muslim, dark-skinned, and immigrant working-class brothers and sisters. Anti-worker violence will not fix the problems of constant unemployment, hunger, and crisis caused by capitalism. We need to turn our outrage against the bosses and smash capitalism once and for all.

The eight men were awaiting trial for three years on a number of charges including "terror related charges, sedition, and robbery" although some were not jailed until last February. Others had escaped from a different jail and had been re-captured. One video showed the group with their hands up, seeming to surrender. A witness said they had no weapons, as did the Home Minister and Inspector General of the anti-terror squad, who added that no police were injured in the fatal encounter. However, after a video surfaced showing police pumping bullets into the body of one escapee, police said the men opened fire on them with four country-made guns.

The details don't add up. Like Black, Latin, Muslim and Arab workers targeted by police in the United States, Indian police are targeting Muslim workers. The bosses criminalize targets of police violence to justify their racist murder, like Shantel Davis and Jessica Williams, whose deaths were justified by police claims that they had stolen cars. No worker deserves to be killed by police.

Intensifying Racism, Stepping Stone for Fascism

In India, we have seen the assaults and killings of Muslims, and some turn their heads because they are not Muslim. We have seen the racist assaults and killings of Dalits ((lowest caste group, previously known as the "untouchables"), the confiscation of land and killings of members of Scheduled Tribes, the killings of unarmed Tamil woodcutters in Andhra. We have seen police attack and beat striking workers. We have even seen some turn their heads when women are attacked. Recently, the police killed 24 Maoist rebels (New York Times, 10/24). And we have seen the fascist leaders call for jailing and even execution for those who dare to even raise questions! The bosses' government is using any opposition as an opportunity to terrorize and bring people into line.

We all have to fight against these racist attacks because an attack on one worker is an attack on all workers. They are stepping stones of a government attack on all workers. One aspect of fascism is when the government uses increased racism and nationalism. Fascism is a natural outgrowth of capitalism, and with growing crisis, the capitalist dictatorship intensifies.

There is a rise of Hindu nationalism in India, the country with the second largest Muslim population (Foreign Policy, 8/18/15). Moreover, U.S. president-elect Donald Trump's anti-Muslim rhetoric has emboldened racists in India. The celebration "of Mr. Trump in New Delhi in May, and others like it in India this year, are the work of a small, devoted and increasingly visible faction of Hindu nationalists in India" (NYT, 10/14).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and many other groups promote Hindu nationalism (Hindutva) combined with violent, anti-Muslim racism. These nationalist groups organize attacks on Muslim people, drive them from their jobs, and some call for the deportation of some twenty million to Bangladesh (The Washington Post, 11/27). Modi was chief minister of Gujarat state in 2002 when Hindu mobs killed more than 1,000 Muslim people (Foreign Policy, 8/18/15). He was heavily implicated in this massacre, to the extent that the U.S. refused to issue him a passport. As prime minister, he has given a green light to all racist and nationalist groups to attack mainly Muslim people, but also lower caste workers, and anyone fighting back.

These attacks are the same as what is happening in the U.S., France, the Philippines, and many other countries around the world. The bosses want us to think that other workers, not capitalism, is the problem. As fascism increases, we must fight back as a united working class.

We Need Working-Class Unity

We cannot turn our heads because all of our lives depend on supporting each other! No cover-ups! We must not tolerate attacks on any of us—Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Dalits, women, members of tribes, members of other ethnic groups, striking workers, political dissidents—because attacks against any of us are a step towards intensified dictatorship that will hurt us all. We must use our power to protest and to build the unity we all need! We are building the Progressive Labor Party, a revolutionary communist party, different from the corrupt parties, to unite workers across the world to destroy capitalism. That is the only way to permanently stop fascism. Fight for communism!✪

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

★ the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Declining U.S. Buys Time for World War

The United States empire is weaker than at any time since World War II. This weakness is exposing divisions among U.S. bosses over the future of their threatened empire, and in particular over U.S. relations with Russia. For now, the U.S. bosses seek co-existence with Russia and their other main imperialist rival, China, to give them time to mobilize for an inevitable global conflict. As the Council on Foreign Relations, the leading think tank for U.S. main-wing, finance capitalism, observes:

> *An extended standoff between supporters of a liberal international order and those who contest it may accidentally lead to outright conflict. A better approach would be for liberal countries to prepare themselves for a period of awkward coexistence with illiberal ones, cooperating on some occasions and competing on others (*Foreign Affairs, January/February 2017*).*

Opportunistic on Russia

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, Russia's sphere of influence shrunk dramatically. Former Soviet nations were absorbed into the pro-U.S./European Union NATO bloc. More recently, the U.S. empire has entered a period of marked decline. In the post-World War II era, U.S. imperialist domination has centered on control of Middle East oil. After the 1979 Iranian revolution , however, U.S. domination in the region gradually waned. A resurgent Russia has expanded its regional influence and directly challenged U.S. domination. On December 20, in the latest setback for the U.S. ruling class, Russia, Iran and Turkey met in Moscow "to work toward a political accord to end Syria's nearly six-year war, leaving the United States on the sidelines as the countries sought to drive the conflict in ways that serve their interests" (New York Times, 12/21).

These defeats for U.S. imperialism, and the bosses' uncertainty over how to respond to them, explain their disarray over November's presidential elections and Donald Trump's proposed cabinet. Even so, the nomination of Rex Tillerson, chief of Exxon Mobil, is another indication that the rulers' main finance wing will align a Trump administration to serve their needs.

At least one section of the main wing appears to be buying time for global conflict while making profits along the way. Where former Exxon Mobil CEO Lee Raymond was unable to close a deal with Russia in the 2000s, Tillerson found more success:

> *Tillerson had spent time in the 1990s overseeing a flagship Exxon project in Russia. And he flew there in 2011 to meet with Putin and announce a strategic partnership with Rosneft, the national oil company that absorbed [formerly privately owned] Yukos' main assets after [Mikhail] Khodorkovsky was thrown in jail.*
>
> *The two companies were to jointly develop potentially massive oil reserves in Russia's Arctic waters, the Black Sea, and Siberian unconventional resources. Putin spoke of investments from the deal eventually reaching perhaps $500 billion—a big number even for Exxon. No sooner had the venture struck oil beneath the Kara Sea, though, than Exxon was forced to down tools as U.S. sanctions over the Ukraine crisis kicked in (*Bloomberg, 10/12*).*

Tillerson is backed by core members of the U.S. foreign policy establishment: James Baker (secretary of state under George H.W. Bush), Condoleezza Rice (secretary of state under George W. Bush), and Robert Gates (CIA director under Bush I, secretary of defense under Bush II). All three have ties to the oil industry (Media Matters, 12/13).

With so much at stake for Exxon Mobil, a chief source of profits for the main wing, U.S. rulers may be prepared to accept a short-term political defeat by ceding influence to Russia in the Middle East.

Syria: Killing Fields of Imperialist Rivalry

As Syrian President Bashar al-Assad re-consolidates his control, despite U.S. proxy efforts to oust him, the Russian military is operating freely throughout the country--the first U.S. rival to do so since World War II. The sacking of Aleppo by the pro-Russian Assad regime could not have succeeded without military support from Russian imperialism. This campaign, brokered with regional powers Turkey and Iran, had no input from the U.S. or the EU. Turkey agreed to withdraw support from rebel factions in exchange for an oil pipeline deal with Russia (Reuters, 10/10). The strengthening of military and economic ties between Russia and Turkey is a significant reversal of fortune for U.S. imperialism.

After the failed U.S. invasions of Iraq, the new Iraqi government is leaning toward U.S. nemesis Iran. Several Iraqi military units are fighting under Iranian military leadership alongside Russia in support of the Assad regime. The potential rise of a Syria-Iraq-Iran axis, tied to an increasingly assertive Russia, would be a devastating blow to U.S. imperialism in the region.

Sharpening Infighting in U.S. Ruling Class

The infighting among U.S. intelligence agencies stems from the bosses' disagreement over how to handle their imperialist rival. The forces around Trump seem to want to make a temporary deal with Russia; other elements of the ruling class are pushing to go on the offensive. Inter-imperialist relations are inherently unstable; competition and cooperation exist simultaneously. Regardless of whether the U.S. bosses make a short-term deal with Russia or take a more hardened stance, any alliance will be temporary. Given the perpetual economic crisis of capitalism, it could quickly disintegrate into open hostility, a potential prelude to the next world war.

The CIA now claims that Russian cyber-attacks were deliberately conducted to help Trump win the election, and that the U.S. must respond. Politicians of every stripe, including Obama, have vowed to strike back. The CIA accusations follow a series of alleged Russia-Trump connections, based on anonymous leaks from a secret investigation. It's worth noting that former acting CIA Director Michael Morell endorsed Clinton in the New York Times and claimed that Russian President Vladimir Putin "had recruited Mr. Trump as an unwitting agent of the Russian Federation." Gen. Michael Hayden, former director of the CIA and the National Security Agency, called Trump "a clear and present danger" to U.S. national security (CNN.com, 08/09).

On the other hand, key sections within the FBI were furious that Hillary Clinton was not criminally charged for mishandling classified information. FBI Director James Comey's October 28 letter to Congress, essentially reopening a closed investigation of Clinton and her aids, clearly damaged Clinton's chances of winning the presidency (The Intercept, 12/10).

Fight for Communism

After the main-wing U.S. bosses bet on Clinton and lost, millions of workers are still looking for some other reform "leader" to save the day. Their disillusionment with the warmongering, racist Clinton—and their disgust with the gutter-racist and sexist Trump—presents an opportunity for the Progressive Labor Party. It doesn't mean the masses will automatically flock to us. But many more people seem more open to communist ideas as the capitalist system exposes its true and horrifying nature for all to see.

Winning masses to PLP means fighting back on our job and school and building anti-imperialist, anti-racist struggles. When organized around communist ideas, these struggles build confidence in each other and in our class. The working class is the only force that can end this ruthless imperialist system. Join us!✪

West Wednesday Rally: Reform or Communism?

BALTIMORE, December 14—Protesters gathered for a special "West Wednesday" rally and press conference, the 177th weekly demonstration demanding justice for Tyrone West, who was murdered three-and-a-half years ago by Baltimore and Morgan State University cops. A West Wednesday leader said it all: "The State's Attorneys and whoever else stands by and watches all this senseless murder in our community every day. Then you got killer cops still walking the streets. I'm freaking pissed! I can't stop crying! Man, [expletive] this cruddy system flat out!"

This week we exposed the Medical Examiners' lies. They falsely claimed that heart problems and dehydration probably caused Tyrone's death. They ignored the testimony of multiple eyewitnesses. Those witnesses clearly described the tasing, repeated, full-face drenching with pepper spray, severe beatings with fists and batons, ruthless kicking, and finally being sat upon by an obese, coldblooded cop, while unarmed Tyrone gasped his last breath. The cops escalated a simple traffic stop into an execution.

Tawanda Jones, Tyrone's sister, shared a never-before-seen photo, that she took five days after his murder. People gasped in horror and outrage at the cop-inflicted wounds, while Tyrone's family could barely remain standing.

The family released a second autopsy from an independent, out of state pathologist. The cause of death determined by the outside pathologist, "positional asphyxiation," differs night-and-day from the official Maryland autopsy. It was "strangulation-by-cop," similar to Eric Garner, 43-year-old Black man killed by the cops in Staten Island in July 2014!

The cops and their buddies continue trying to intimidate the protesters. Time after time, Tawanda's car tires have been slashed. West Wednesday fighters have often raised money for new tires. We will not be intimidated. We continue to advance under attack! The cops are doing what the capitalist system requires: intimidate and repress, while upholding racism. Expecting "better cops" is as crazy as hoping for an anti-racist Ku Klux Klan!

We all need to help build a revolutionary communist movement to destroy this system of racist police terror. Progressive Labor Party members have consistently joined the West Wednesday rallies and helped with leafleting, sound equipment, speeches and organizing. PL'ers have written for CHALLENGE, making this an international issue, and have distributed CHALLENGE at the rallies. Speeches by PL'ers have stressed the need for communist revolution, have attacked the Department of Justice report as a dog-and-pony show, and have explained how racism is rooted in capitalism.

Over the past three years West Wednesday protesters have sent many appeals to government officials. These officials respond with meaningless form letters. They will not put the cops on trial. Many of these officials are Black, but like their white counterparts, they carry out the mission of the capitalists. As "300 Gangsters" – an organization active at West Wednesday – often says, "All Black ain't Black, all white ain't white. We all we got, we all we need."

We must build this antiracist movement, not only on the street, but also on-the-job and at schools, like the progressive students from University of Maryland, who have brought sizeable groups to some rallies.

The fight to incarcerate killer cops is an important anti-racist struggle, but such reform struggles are limited. They won't change the system. As the Ferguson rebels said, "It's the whole damn system."That means joining the Progressive Labor Party and building a revolutionary movement for communism. And when the U.S. capitalists become weak during their upcoming wars against their international rivals, we will take down this inhuman system once and for all.✪

Trump Election Sparks Harlem Protests

HARLEM, December 10—A multiracial group of over 30 people protested racist harassment of Black, Latin, and Muslim workers following Donald Trump's election. Protesters included Columbia, CUNY, and Fordham students, members of the church sponsoring the action, neighborhood residents, and PLP members and friends. People are angry and afraid of the gutter racism, sexism, and fascism Trump has encouraged. We had a rally to show solidarity and give confidence to all workers that we can fight back against attacks. Our energetic chants electrified people on this cold wintry day and people eagerly took our fliers as we marched.

One PLP member took the bullhorn and angrily denounced racism's effects: inferior schools, poor health care, no jobs, and inadequate or no housing. One member of Columbia's Student Worker Solidarity (SWS) organization spoke about being arrested during a militant $15-minimum-wage action. Other SWS members spoke about their campaign against payroll lag time for student workers. CUNY students demanded NO tuition increases and NO budget cutbacks. Another speaker talked about the ongoing work to end police violence and to demand that no killer cop can remain anonymous. A PLP member led us in a song about Ramarley Graham and Deborah Danner's murders and Eric Garner's lynching.

It is no coincidence that police terror, tuition hikes, and other attacks are all happening now. As the bosses prepare for more wars in the Middle East and beyond, they need to terrorize workers to keep them in line. They also devote less money for education so that they can fund their wars. Whether we're fighting for a living wage or against racist housing practices, we need to make the connections that these problems are all caused by capitalism.

Feet to the Ground

We then marched to the State Office Building (SOB) with energetic drum beats and militant chants. Neighbors noticed us and one CD vendor even shut off his loud music so that we could be heard. Several people joined the march as they read our signs and heard our chants. With hands and feet frigid from the cold, we stood before the SOB as church choir members led us in a militant, anti-racist version of "Go Down Moses."

We ended with a PLP speech where the comrade called for an end to the vicious attacks on our working-class brothers and sisters by the kkkops. She also spoke of the murderous steam heat burning of two babies who died in a New York City apartment for the homeless even though the building's landlord is on a list of the city's worst slumlords.

Given the bitter cold weather, we had a great turnout and made our demands heard. We were very heartened by the church members and leaders who participated, including the pastor. Going forward, we must make the issue of racist police violence even stronger. As important as these actions are, we must not forget that as long as capitalism exists, we are not going to end racism and sexism. Only communism can end all of these capitalist-caused problems. With patience and boldness, we are finding more are open to revolutionary communist ideas. Stay tuned for more fightback!✪

Doctrines of U.S. Imperialism

The U.S. ruling class has brutally attempted to spread its control of large parts of the world for nearly 200 years using various strategies known as doctrines. Imperialist aims begot the rulers two world wars, two workers' revolutions, and workers unwilling to die in oil wars.

1823: Monroe Doctrine

In the nineteenth century fledgling U.S. imperialism declared newly independent nations of Latin America off-limits to other imperialists under a strategy know as the Monroe Doctrine.

1900: Roosevelt Corollary

At the dawn of the twentieth century as exploitation of Latin American land and labor by U.S. business interests mounted Theodore Roosevelt issued his Roosevelt Corollary [addition] to the Monroe Doctrine. It asserted that the U.S. would exercise an "international police power" to maintain a stable business climate in Latin America thus making every workers strike across the region a target for being crushed by the U.S. military.

1914-1918: World War I

Amid the inter-imperialist slaughter of 38 million workers across Europe the entry of U.S. troops at the end of the war was the beginning of the period in which U.S. imperialism replaced England as the world's dominant capitalist. The biggest development of WW I was the Russian Revolution, which reshaped the world as workers took power and held off the attacks of 22 capitalist countries, including the U.S., to establish the Soviet Union.

1933-1945: World War II

World War II was in reality two wars. One was an inter-imperialist fight between the German-Japanese bosses vs. the English-U.S.-Chinese bosses. The other war was an assault by the German bosses against the workers state in the Soviet Union. Not only did the working class in Russia defeat the fascist Nazi Army, but the working class in China led by the Chinese Communist Party, defeated both the invading Japanese military and then subsequently the Chinese capitalists to establish workers power in China. The working class controlled of a third of the entire world.

1946: Truman Doctrine

In 1946 the Truman Doctrine was the first step towards U.S. imperialism's determination to "contain" the spread of communism, beginning with Greece and Turkey.

The victory of the Chinese communists in 1949 proved that under communist leadership, working people can defeat any imperialist doctrine.

1970s-Present: Vietnam Syndrome

The defeat of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam diminished the support of imperialist war by the U.S. working class. It represented a stunning body blow to the war-fighting capacity of U.S. capitalism from which it has yet to recover. We place the worker's victory of the Vietnam Syndrome among these imperialist doctrines because, like the doctrines, it sets conditions and parameters for what U.S. imperialism is able to pursue.

1980-Present: Carter Doctrine

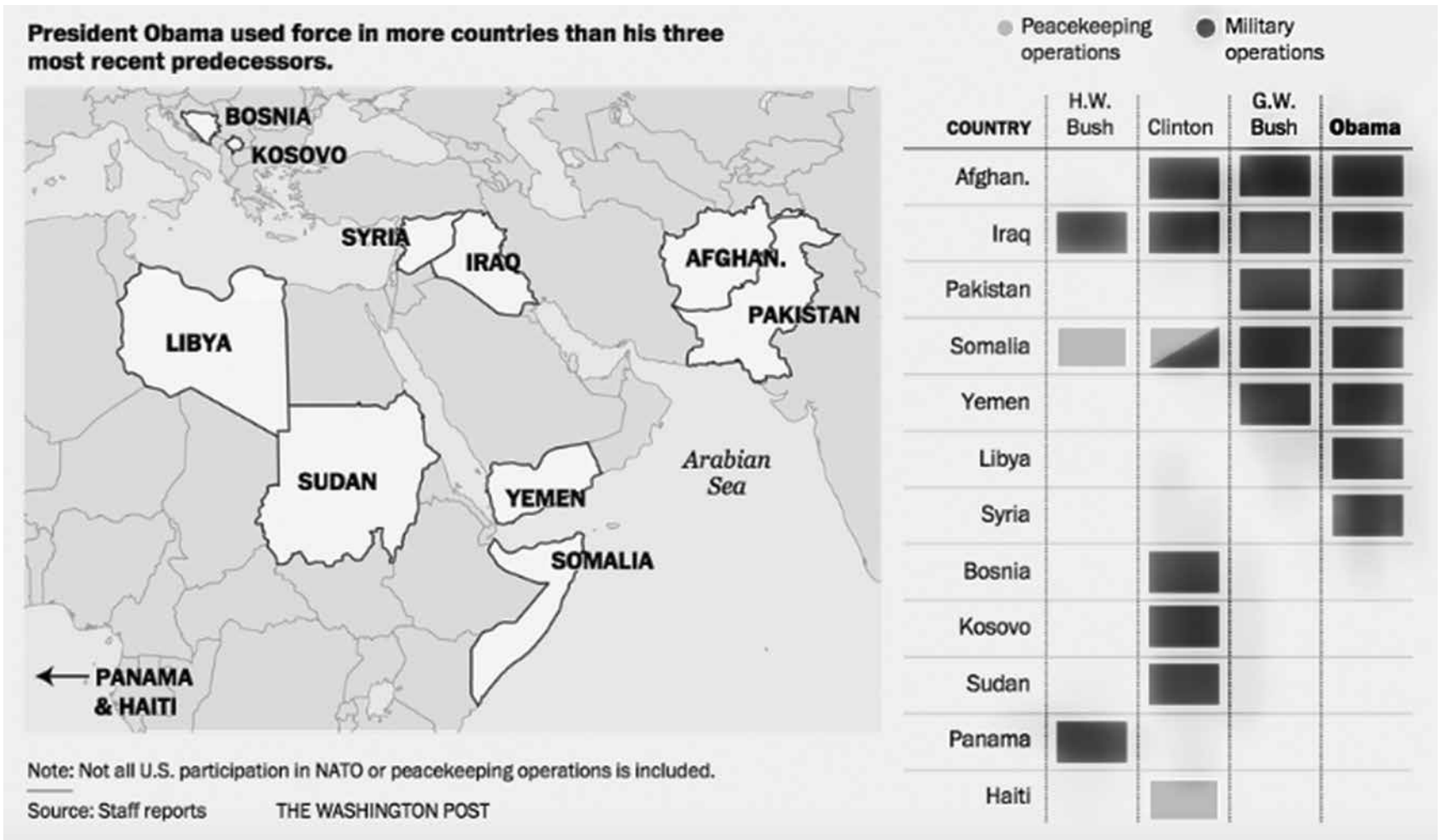
The U.S. would control the world situation through the military control of the flow of oil. It declared the Persian Gulf off limits to the projection of military power by rival imperialists. It was based on massive expansion of a permanent U.S. military presence around the world to control oil production and oil shipping routes.

1990-2008: Powell Doctrine

It has been the basis for three decades of military assault under Bush I, Clinton and Bush II ranging from air war terror to massive ground invasion. The lynchpin is large-scale military assault to defend strategic interests around the world and was the basis for the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan.

2008-Present: Obama Doctrine

An Obama Doctrine of sorts has emerged. His administration is raining death with drones, occupying widening zones of conflict while remaining tied to ground combat, and fighting the competing capitalists in numerous proxy wars across the Middle East, Africa and Asia. A major result of this doctrine has been the deadly wars raging in Syria, Libya, Yemen and threatening to erupt in the Ukraine.



Forum Debates Multiracial Unity vs. Black Nationalism

BROOKLYN, NY, December 17—To expose the racist ideologies of capitalism and broaden our fight against racism our church hosted a forum on Black Lives Matter (BLM). We wanted to unite with other community and faith based groups so we traveled from our middle class, downtown Brooklyn location to host it in a community, which has been repeatedly targeted by racist police attacks.

The host from our church began the panel with a story about our "Black Lives Matter" banner. Some antiracist church members hung up this banner to support the fight against racism. The banner was stolen overnight. Another one was put up, which was also stolen. Then one morning a "Blue Lives Matter" banner appeared outside the church. We took down this racist sign. Blue Lives Matter is a racist, pro-police reaction to the anti-racist fightback. Such racism must be confronted everywhere, in every way!

The moderator was a Black pastor and professor who promoted the idea of Black Nationalism. The panelists consisted of a history teacher who has been fighting the racism in schools for 20 years, a recent college graduate who is involved in mentoring Black youth, and a young Black man involved in the Black Lives Matter movement.

The teacher gave a rundown of how racism was created to control and divide workers throughout history. She recommended a book by Black historian Lerone Bennett Jr. called *The Shaping of Black America*. He explains how in the early days of Colonial America Black and white indentured servants lived and worked together, intermarried and even united to fight against the plantation owners. In response to this, the slave owning plantation owners made a concerted effort to divide Black from white. From preachers who promoted racist ideas to laws which made all kinds of unity illegal, the racist rulers steadily built up racism over hundreds of years. Our task today is to smash all racist ideas and practices as we fight for a better world. CHALLENGE newspaper was distributed to quite a few people at this forum as a small part of this anti-racist fightback.

The young man from BLM broke down his experiences which led him to the movement, sparked by outrage at the death of Eric Garner and Mike Brown at the hands of racist kkkops and Trayvon Martin who was killed by a racist vigilante. The college graduate spoke of how racist treatment in the school system inspired him to create a mentoring program focused on promoting "good" behavior. He realized that it wasn't the fault of the students that they were unfairly singled out and criminalized because of their race. He also expressed an increasing frustration with voting.

During the open discussion many people expressed support for the anti racism of the BLM movement while questioning the nationalism and divisiveness. Some promoted white privilege theory. This idea serves to divide the working class. For some it may assuage guilt over the racist past of the US, but it also hinders a united, working class fightback against racism. In reality the whole capitalist system has to go. This can only happen with multiracial unity and, as some said during the forum, with an armed struggle.✪

Harlem Church Sharpens the Anti-Racist Struggle

HARLEM, December 20—A Harlem congregation and Progressive Labor Party members within it have focused on two fights this season: opposing racist police terror and supporting the Standing Rock resistance. These fights toughen up the working class for more battles ahead, building communist fighters and a communist outlook along the way.

The two fights are in fact closely related. The indigenous organizers in North Dakota were leading the struggle against the emerging global fossil fuel disaster pushed by ExxonMobil. Predictably, they have encountered the kind of brutal, racist repression like Black children suffered in Birmingham Alabama in 1963.

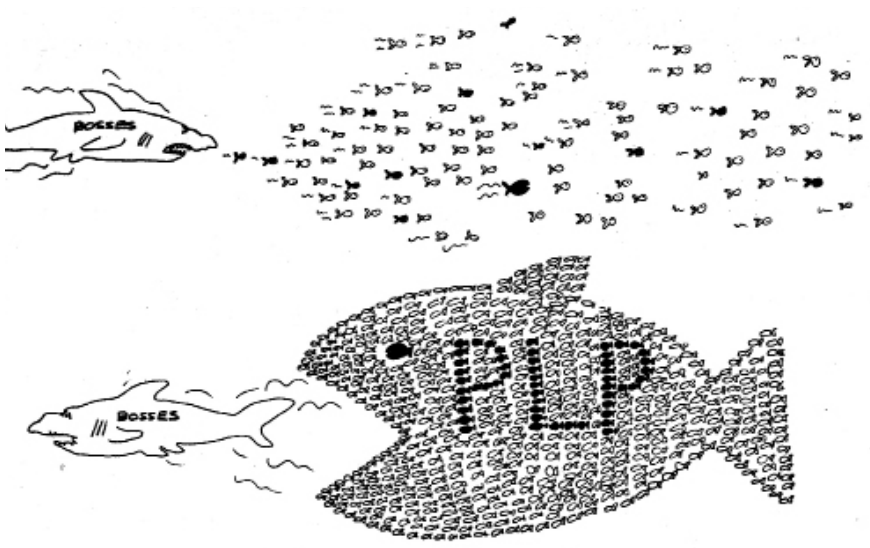
In September, our climate justice fighters organized a march of fifty community people against the banks that fund the North Dakota pipeline. Then a friend began the mobilization that culminated in thousands massing at Foley Square on November 15 to demand that the Army Corps of Engineers continue to block the pipeline's construction. We were there with five college students.

At the demonstration we noticed that a number of cops we were chanting against were not wearing badges. When we called them out, one cop yelled back "We don't need any stinking badges!"

This shows that we are entering a new territory of sharpening fascist repression. Badge-less cops can't stop us from identifying and organizing against vicious cop attackers.

More importantly, racist police have struck twice in within weeks of each other—Deborah Danner (Black, 66, schizophrenic) and Ariel Galarza (Latin, 49, emotionally disturbed, disabled) in the Bronx. We have been in the streets with militant workers from Harlem in outrage against these atrocities and are reaching out to college students, other congregations and community groups for a broader based actionas soon as possible: "Unite Against Racism and Sexism, No Deportations."

Through the mass organizing, PLP is able to affect those around us, and foster a fighting climate based on communist values. We are building class consciousness, helping workers act on the principle that an injury to one member of our class is an injury to all. Engaging in the class struggle can lead workers and youth to have confidence in our class to make communist revolution. We aim to overthrow this dictatorship of the capitalists, and build a worker-run world.✪



No Cops in our Homes!

Woman Fights Racist NYPD's Assault

BROOKLYN, December 17—On two consecutive Saturdays, plainclothes thugs of the NYPD descended on the apartment of a strong Brooklyn mother who refused to take their assault. Her son is wanted by the NYPD. In the style of imperialist and fascist forces across history, terrorizing the immediate family of sought-after individuals is official policy.

The mother is a student in a college classroom where communist ideas set some of the tone of discussion. She called on new friends to help her mobilize a campaign to resist the racist harassment from the cops. Visits and meetings will be building into a campaign that draws in neighbors, family, fellow students, friends and PLP members. It's become clear that the cops who invaded her apartment have a long history of racist assaults on the homes of many in the public housing developments of this Brooklyn neighborhood. These are not "rogue" cops. They are essential to the performing the function of policing in a segregated, capitalist society.

While legal tactics, including filing reports and potentially a lawsuit, are a part of the response mobilizing our base. Picket the precinct and building on initial door-to-door efforts in the apartment is central to our response. This case is a new front in the battle against racist cop terror because PLP is on the scene and organizing not in response to cop murder but in response to the racist assaults that form the "business as usual" of daily life no matter who the president or mayor may be.

This proud mother's resistance to the racist assault on her home is an inspiration and an opportunity for many more to stand against the terror that shapes daily life for our class brothers and sisters here and around the world. Stay tuned.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Multiracial Organizing a Must

Where we live in Maryland, many liberals and local community groups are taking action against Donald Trump's racist, reactionary agenda. We have taken advantage of these new opportunities to attend various meetings and raise PLP's communist ideas.

At a union holiday party in a public-sector agency, for example, I met a young woman who decided to form a chapter of SURJ ("Standing up for Racial Justice"—an organization of white workers serving as allies of Black workers). SURJ is active in the DC area and takes leadership from Black organizations when rallies are called. It also has meetings to discuss racism among its ranks. The explicit racial separation promoted by SURJ and its non-struggle attitude towards Black workers is a serious weakness in their approach to organizing. Interestingly, in Charlotte, North Carolina, where there was recently a multiracial rebellion, the SURJ chapter recently disbanded to join multiracial organizations because they felt that being merely allies was too passive. They declared:

> *The end of white supremacy will not come from a room of white people talking to each other about racism. We need to take action, and now. As the advent of a Trump presidency is certain, we have an imperative responsibility now more than ever before to rise against the fascist tide of Trump, his terrorist supporters, and liberal Trump apologists. We must do this as part of a multi-national, multi-racial, multi-gender force to fight…all systems of oppression.*

At the local SURJ meeting, we raised the idea of militant multiracial organizing, but the twenty people there don't agree with us yet. We will continue to struggle with them and help with discussion of books like Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*. We will also invite them to join in our multiracial programs, protests, and socials, including the ongoing battle against the racist bosses in the local transit industry, the engagement with returning citizens, and the fight against deportation. We will also struggle with them to develop personal relationships with Black, Latin, and immigrant workers, something that appeared to be lacking in their day to day lives.

Another example is a meeting of Progressive Maryland that we attended. Progressive Maryland is basically a Democratic Party aligned group. At their meetings, they discuss elections as the pathway to change. Campaigns including "Fight for 15" (a movement to raise the minimum wage) and the Paid Leave Act (a law to require paid sick leave) are nice reforms but hardly enough to counter the Trump agenda. They are not explicitly antiracist and so they don't build working-class unity. At this meeting, they discussed a campaign for "Waste Zero" which might force poor workers with children to pay more for trash removal—not even a "progressive agenda"!

In another case, the People's Coalition in Prince George's County, an antiracist multiracial organization that has led many battles against police brutality, limited their agenda to getting citizens on police trial boards. The police chief blew off this suggestion at a meeting with him. We intend to continue to build a base with our friends in the People's Coalition, our neighbors, and coworkers. We will fight in the reform struggle with them while sharpening the revolutionary side of the struggle.

Some antiracists have started a blog https://multiracialunity.org/ which everyone can contribute to as they work through these issues with the broader range of people who have become activated by the recent election. We all need to be inviting friends to discuss identity politics, working-class unity, and basebuilding for antiracist communist revolution.

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Pushing Racist Police as Health Public Hazard

In November, public health students, practitioners, and members of the Progressive Labor Party testified and rallied in Washington D.C. at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Convention. We fought to pass the resolution against racist policing, "Law Enforcement Violence Is a Public Health Issue" (see CHALLENGE, 12/07).

Following this and many other campaigns at public health schools and organizations, two faculty members at George Washington University's School of Public Health (SPH) presented their colleagues with a similar resolution asking the SPH to publicly state that police violence is a public health emergency. The SPH had immediately condemned the massacre at the Pulse night club in Orlando showing that such statements are a reasonable activity for the SPH administration.

Despite support from the Prevention and Community Health Department for such a statement and agreement from the SPH's Department Chairs that police violence is a public health problem, the SPH administration refused to promote it. Fighters launched a petition at Change.org. There was significant support from alumni and friends despite the administration's viewpoint. In fact, many were very angry and frustrated by this response. Join with them in signing the petition here: http://bit.ly/2hS94W3

At a Town Hall meeting to discuss the ramifications from Trump's victory, the Dean declared that the SPH would not issue a statement against police brutality as a public health issue despite concerns students raised at the meeting. She said that the police had to be included as part of the solution and she probably did not want to alienate donors and funders. Yet it is perfectly fine to alienate and dismiss the communities that lose so many people to racist incarceration and murder!

We are continuing to organize around the issue to make demands from the institution beyond issuing statements. In January, we will join in anti-racist activity on campus around Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday by showing *Profiled*, a documentary on racist police violence (see www.kathleenfoster.com). Moderating the program will be members from a support organization for returning citizens, Releasing Aging People in Prisons (RAPP). We want the SPH to materially contribute to the fight against racism and mass incarceration by helping RAPP get parole boards to release older prisoners and support their reentry. At the same time, we are working on creating anti-racist curriculum and research plans to embed anti-racism permanently in the academic core of the SPH.

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PL'er Exposes Segregationist Politics at Anti-Trump March

The working class came out by the thousands to revolt against the racist and sexist president-elect Donald Trump. As we were about to join the march, two women approached us and asked what the difference is between our communism and others. I said, "We believe in fighting directly for communism and not maintaining aspects of the profit system." My comrade said, "One difference between us and other 'communist' groups is how multiracial we are." We took down their contact info.

During the march, we led the majority of the chants. No one could deny our influence. Towards the end of the march, right in front of Trump Tower, I decided to speak on the bullhorn. As I began to speak, a couple of cops asked us for a permit, telling us we couldn't use the bullhorn. A comrade told us to keep moving because they might want to take it from us. We began moving around the crowd so I could speak.

I said, "We need to understand that it's not just Trump, it's capitalism! There is no election or reform that will change this system. If we want justice we got to take it! This is why it's so important to learn our history. Everything that we've fought for, our oppressors took away! We wanted to end slavery, and now we have 2 million people in jail working free labor. We've fought against segregation, and now we are more segregated than ever.

But worst of all, they hide our revolutionary history. Workers have fought many battles, even now, and won! Just like now! You all saw that police officer wanted to take our bullhorn, but as I spoke all of you gathered around me and protected me. The working class are the only ones we can count on. Who is there when a police officer kills someone? We are! Asian, Latin, Black and white workers. We need multiracial unity."

Everyone cheered with enthusiasm and then I said, "[expletive] Black Lives Matter! We were attacked by BLM for being a multiracial group. We need multiracial unity!"

Needless to say, that didn't go over well. About five people in the audience started to chant "Black lives matter!" I started to say, "All lives…" (which was a mistake). Then I quickly changed it to, "Workers lives matter!" Luckily my comrade stepped in to add, "Any type of nationalism is dangerous. We need multiracial unity!"

One of the organizers then used our bullhorn to start saying, "Black lives matter, Latin lives matter!" Someone tapped him and said, "Transgender lives matter!" Chants like these mean unity with the ruling class. PLP doesn't say these chants because people like Obama and Black kkkops don't matter. They are the ones terrorizing us! PLP organizes within the working class, for the empowerment of our class, and nothing less.

I met up with someone who heard me speak after the rally. I told her I stand by what I said about BLM but that I could have said it in a different, more tactful way. She agreed and understood. We are planning to meet regularly now. A little boldness goes a long way!

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Clinton Would've Been Anti-Worker, Too

On election night, family and friends were calling my wife and I in a panic, upset that Trump was heading to victory. In my union, the progressive members were shaken and despondent. The ruling class—as evidenced by campaign donations, endorsements and corporate media backing—overwhelmingly wanted Clinton to be President. But she ran as the status quo candidate at a time of tremendous dissatisfaction. In the post-mortem, I suspect Sanders will be assigned a good part of the blame for pounding Clinton as the Wall Street and big business candidate. Which she is. She and her husband have received $888 million from wealthy donors for their political campaigns, as well as $2 billion for the Clinton Foundation.

People are saying it's going to be terrible under Trump. I agree, and the same should be said about Clinton. Progressive Labor Party acknowledges the tremendous dangers of a racist and sexist Trump presidency and looks to take an active part in working in mass movements to defend immigrant, Black and women workers under attack.

Trump will do nothing to stop economic malaise, racial inequality and police terror, a U.S. imperialism beset by rivals and threats, and a climate change threat that capitalism is incapable of addressing (especially when the President claims it's a hoax). Trump's own supporters will soon grow disillusioned.

The Democratic Party happily supports and administers a capitalist system that allows cretins like Trump to become billionaires in the first place. They defend a system that allows billionaires to bankroll politicians who do their bidding, from City Hall to state legislatures to Congress. They are not the anti-Trump party—they are the party that enables a Trump to get elected in the first place. The mass movement that arises needs to be independent, as much as possible, of both bourgeois parties.

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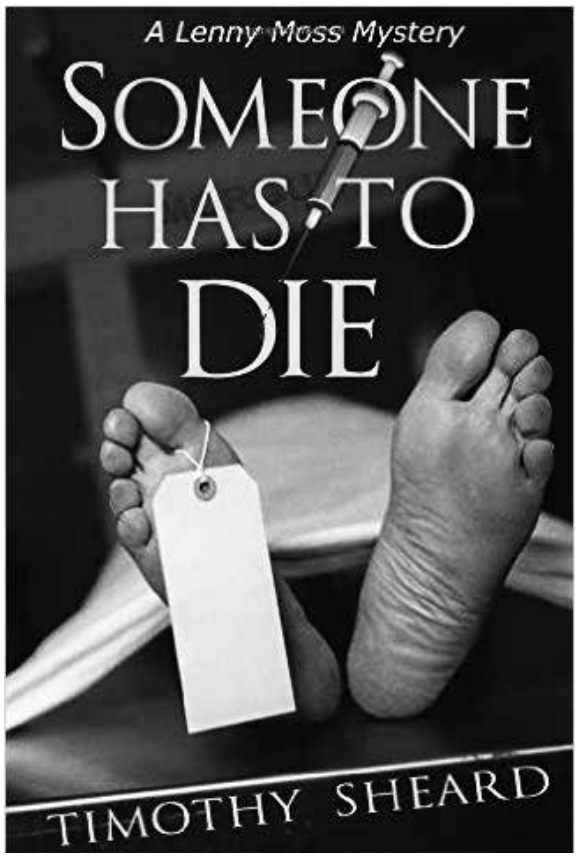
Lenny Moss Series Book Review

True-to-Life Depiction of Workers' Collectivity

Most mysteries' main characters are either a police detective or a private eye who works with the cops or a citizen who works closely with the police. Author Timothy Sheard has created a viable mystery with little or no police involvement, thus concretely illustrating how the working class itself can solve society's problems. That's what we get with the latest Lenny Moss mystery, *Someone Has to Die*.

The protagonist Lenny Moss is a maintenance worker in a hospital in Philadelphia. He is a union steward in his workplace, and is very active in defending the workers against management's harassment and callousness. His commitment to his co-workers is genuine and is returned with deep friendships and mutual aid off the job. His anti racist principles and militant hatred for the bosses cement the friendships with his coworkers. Lenny Moss is nominally the detective, but five or six characters pool their information and put together enough pieces of the puzzle to solve the mystery.

The workers are portrayed realistically. They have good hearts and burn with righteous anger over injustice, but are not without human faults and failings. There are times when Lenny wants to just give up and lead a quiet life, but his sense of duty to his co-workers keeps him going. Lenny's firm principles, which include multiracial unity and service towards the workers he represents, as well as his refusal to be intimidated by management, earns his coworkers' trust. He is not a communist and there is no discussion of overthrowing capitalism, but Lenny understands that loyalty to the working class trumps personal gain.



This mystery begins with a nurse falsely accused and fired by the bosses when a patient is found dead in the morning. Scapegoating a worker as cover to make the hospital administration look good rather than trying to understand what actually happened rings true for workers in medicine, transit and education. Meanwhile, the hospital management plans to slash pensions and health care for retirees as well as current workers. Lenny and his union co-workers and retirees creatively plan a rally against these cutbacks while the union leadership negotiates with management. Lenny has his hands full as he tries to find out why the patient died, support the fired nurse, and outwit management.

Sheard shows his understanding of hospital practice and the need for teamwork in caring for patients in a secondary issue where a friendly doctor refuses to follow the computer guidelines in managing a sick patient despite intimidation from a manager who is heavily invested in the new and expensive technology.

This is the fifth in a series featuring Lenny Moss. The best part of this mystery series is that it is grounded in the working class. Lenny cannot solve mysteries without the collective efforts of clerks, lab techs, and clinicians. Sheard himself worked as an Emergency Room nurse for forty years. Lenny is based on a real janitor who was his coworker in a Philadelphia hospital. Tim started Hardball Press after his regular publishers told him they could not make any money selling his books. You can purchase this mystery novel at http://amzn.to/2hNApv3.

It is important to support books about strong, antiracist workers and their struggles. Otherwise, the stories would not be told and workers would not be inspired to action✪

2016 in Review: Workers Fight Back

Progressive Labor Party provides a communist alternative to electoral politics during the Democratic National Convention

Continued from page 8

government. In San Francisco they helped lead a takeover of City Hall. While occupying City Hall they organized study groups explaining communism. Soon after, comrades in Anaheim and Sacramento battled KKK and Nazi scum to show them that there's no free speech for racists!

Several comrades with a bullhorn provided leadership in Baton Rouge during the rebellion against racist police terror. A few weeks later, a local leader from Baton Rouge joined us in Philadelphia to protest against the Democratic National Convention. When we exposed Bernie Sanders in the streets outside the convention, many Sanders supporters joined us and some came to our forum. In Cleveland, comrades learned from workers in the neighborhood where Tamir Rice was murdered. Those workers didn't care about the Republican National Convention going on downtown. They knew it wouldn't stop racist police murders. Some agreed with the ideas of communism and took CHALLENGE for their friends. In Minneapolis, we learned about boldness when we interrupted Hillary Clinton at the American Federation of Teachers Convention. We unfurled a banner and led chants to show that Clinton is just as racist as the rest of them. In the Bronx our young leaders have stepped forward both in the streets and at several college campuses fighting back against racism and exposing the futility of elections.

From Flint, Michigan to Standing Rock—
Strikes in India and Pakistan to
a failed coup in Turkey—
Teacher rebellion in Mexico to
national prison strike in the U.S.—
Be it military bases in tiny Djibouti or
the racist police killings in Brazil—
Let's bring CHALLENGE, its communist ideas, and PLP to every corner of the world.

In Haiti, as our young leaders organized relief efforts after Hurricane Matthew, they also explained that only communism can end capitalist exploitation once and for all. In Pakistan, comrades are leading anti-sexist struggles in the brick kiln industry and fighting for better wages and working conditions in electricity, sanitation, and gas companies. In Mexico, comrades are leading the struggle against fascist attacks on teachers and workers in several provinces. From India to Standing Rock we are fighting back against the bosses' exploitation and building a mass, revolutionary, communist party that will lead the working-class to power.

Spread Challenge and its Communist Ideas Worldwide

But it's never enough. We can always do more, and better. The bosses will not let us rest. As imperialist competition intensifies and misery for the working-class increases all over the world, so do fascist movements, from Donald Trump in the U.S. to Marine Le Pen in France. But the only solution is communist revolution. Whether it's a civil war in Syria or Yemen or Ukraine, capitalism offers nothing for workers but death and destruction. CHALLENGE does a great job of explaining what's going on, and we must bring its communist ideas and our communist Party to the workers:

From Standing Rock, to India, Djibouti, and Brazil, let's bring the paper, the ideas and the Party to every corner of the world. Because the Ferguson rebels had it right: "It's the Whole Damn System!" Help us in making 2017 a great year of struggle for the international working class. 2016 has steeled us for more intense fightbacks in 2017. Join the Progressive Labor Party. Fight for communism!✪

2016: YEAR OF RULERS' DISARRAY AND WORKERS' FIGHTBACK

[World War I] has undoubtedly created the acutest crises and has incredibly intensified the sufferings of the masses. The reactionary character of this war, the shameless lie of the bourgeoisie of all countries which covers its predatory aims with "national" ideology, all this inevitably creates…revolutionary sentiments in the masses. Our duty is to help make these sentiments conscious, to deepen them and give them form. The only correct expression of this task is the slogan "Turn the imperialist war into civil war [class war, ed.]." All consistent class struggle in time of war, all "mass action" earnestly conducted must inevitably lead to this. We cannot know whether in the first or in the second imperialist war between the great nations, whether during or after it, a strong revolutionary movement will flare up. Whatever the case may be, it is our absolute duty systematically and unflinchingly to work in that particular direction.

—V.I. Lenin, *Turn Imperialist War Into Civil War* (August 1915)

A little over two years after Lenin wrote these prophetic words the Russian communists (Bolsheviks) led the working class to a socialist revolution right in the middle of World War I. Today the imperialist world powers (United States, China, Russia) are devastating the world's workers as they promote many, vicious regional wars and move ever closer to world war. Millions of workers are sucked into fighting and dying in these imperialist wars for profit and resources, but many are also rebelling and striking against their own profiteering, warmongering bosses. Now, more than ever, the job of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) is to fight the bosses everywhere, to disrupt their plans for war and world domination and to rebuild a worldwide, revolutionary, communist movement to seize power for the working class.

The young, Black rebels of Ferguson, Missouri had it right when they violently fought the racist cops and proclaimed that "It's the whole damn system." That rebellion set an example for workers and students worldwide. Many members of our Party went to Ferguson, learned from that militant fightback, and also were able to provide some leadership. And the Progressive Labor Party grew, both in numbers and in toughness.

Young, Multiracial Collectives Lead the Party

At our convention in 2015 we adopted a new collective style of leadership with many young comrades, strengthened by Ferguson, stepping forward and taking on more responsibility. This past year has shown this to be an excellent decision. Collectives now lead most areas of Party work, with young comrades, especially women, Black, Latin, and immigrant comrades, at the forefront. Challenge articles and editorials are researched, discussed, and written collectively. We have had cadre schools for college comrades, internationally, and for producing CHALLENGE.

This transition to collective leadership paved the road for even sharper struggles in 2016. Our new, young Party leaders became stronger leaders. They learned mainly through struggles against the bosses and the bosses'

Continued on page 7

From top to bottom: 1) Frisco500 takes over San Fransciso City Hall over police murders. 2) Workers in Brazil protest Olympics. 3) Verizon workers on strike.

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